

EXHIBIT HCH 8

DATE 1-14-09

HB

RJ

From: Patrick Neary <patrick.t.neary@wellsfargo.com>

To: hdsands@aol.com

Subject: Support HBs 85 & 93; Rescue Our Rural EMS!

Date: Tue, 13 Jan 2009 1:49 pm

Dear Representative Diane Sands:

Montana's rural emergency medical system is in critical condition due to a declining volunteer workforce, changes in household incomes and a general attrition of emergency medical technicians (EMTs) whose career expectancy is about 3 years.

House Bills 85 and 93 will begin to lend support to our volunteer EMTs. I am urging you to support each of these important measures.

HB 85 will provide matching dollars to provide for the replacement of vehicles and certain equipment on an emergency basis. This grant money, allocated from the DOT non-restricted account, will be used for the new emergency medical services grant program to help pay for items like ambulances, training and communications. Given that some of our worst emergencies happen on our highways, it is only natural to have this non-restricted account assist EMS units throughout Montana in their lifesaving efforts to protect the traveling public.

HB 93 calls for the Departments of Health and the Board of Medical Examiners to develop mutual efforts to improve patient care standards for pre-hospital and inter-facility emergency medical treatment and transportation. The legislation will help to clarify and streamline medical direction for EMS services in Montana.

These are times when we should focus on the essential services of government and advocate for the taxpayer. Volunteer EMTs responded to more than 31,000 9-1-1 calls each year and the cost-savings are significant. Moreover, what could be more fundamental than when a Montanan calls 9-1-1 in desperate need of help, that another Montanan adequately responds to that call?

As a former EMT, I am very supportive of the need for updated equipment and for the standardization of pre-hospital protocols. Our rural communities in particular are extremely dependent upon these volunteer services and are also the most distant from hospital services. It is critical to provide our rural residents with current equipment and practices to ensure the patients survive and are well cared for during their long transportation times. Please support these bills.

Thank you,
Patrick Neary

Please support House Bills 85 and 93 and help rescue our state's rural emergency medical system.

Sincerely,

Patrick Neary
322 Future Cir
Billings, MT 59102-6815

From: Mavis Parkinson <kootnany@yahoo.com>

To: hdsands@aol.com

Subject: Support HBs 85 & 93; Rescue Our Rural EMS!

Date: Tue, 13 Jan 2009 10:48 am

Dear Representative Sands,

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Please support House Bills 85 and 93 and help rescue our state's rural emergency medical system.

Sincerely,

Mavis Parkinson
203 W Larch St Apt 4
Libby, MT 59923-2662

From: Jolene Kubischta <jkubischta@roosmem.org>

To: hdsands@aol.com

Subject: Support HBs 85 & 93; Rescue Our Rural EMS!

Date: Tue, 13 Jan 2009 10:47 am

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Sincerely,

Jolene Kubischta
PO Box 576
8 2nd Ave W
Culbertson, MT 59218-0576

From: Douglas Koester <doug.koester@heart.org>

To: hdsands@aol.com

Subject: Support HBs 85 & 93; Rescue Our Rural EMS!

Date: Tue, 13 Jan 2009 10:37 am

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Please support these lifesaving bills. Let me know if I can help in any way as we move these bills forward.
Thank you.

Douglas Koester

Please support House Bills 85 and 93 and help rescue our state's rural emergency medical system.
Sincerely,

Douglas Koester
260 Kensington Ave
Missoula, MT 59801-5728

From: Amy Enterline <amy.enterline@heart.org>

To: hdsands@aol.com

Subject: Support HBs 85 & 93; Rescue Our Rural EMS!

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Please support House Bills 85 and 93 and help rescue our state's rural emergency medical system.

Sincerely,

Amy Enterline
6 Sunset Ridge Lane
Joliet, MT 59041

Diane Sands

From: HDSands@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2008 5:23 AM
To: dsands@montana.com
Subject: Fwd: Thanks for Your Leadership on MT EMS Issues ...

In a message dated 9/10/2008 4:35:15 PM Mountain Daylight Time, stevemcarthur@aol.com writes:

Dear Representative Diane Sands:

I am writing to thank you for your hard work on the Interim Legislative Committee reviewing our rural emergency medical systems and for approving the committee bills that will provide immediate and long-term help for our rural volunteer EMTs -- and especially to the people they serve.

The one million dollar grant program to restock emergency equipment, providing EMT license plates, tax credits for volunteer EMTs and their employers are among the significant changes you have recommended that will start to address recruitment and retention issues within our state's rural emergency medical system. That translates into saving the lives of our relatives, friends and neighbors.

As you know, Montana's rural emergency medical system is in critical condition; that deteriorating situation is creating a sense of urgency in the rural parts of our state. I encourage you to continue to work with the EMS Alliance and others to implement common-sense policies that will make a real difference to rural Montanans. Again, thank you for your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

Steve McArthur
3406 W Central Ave
Missoula, MT 59804-6330

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